



PATENT

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Mary L. Morley
Mary L. Morley

Applicant : Robert S. Deland, Jr.
Application No. : 09/324,741
Filed : June 3, 1999
Title : MAGNETIC STRIPE AUTHENTICATION AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM
Grp./Div. : 2876
Examiner : Tremblay, Mark Stephen
Docket No. : 39210/RAG/M743

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RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
April 28, 2003

Commissioner:

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tremblay for extending the courtesy of holding an interview on April 24, 2003. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed in light of U.S. Patent 5,546,462 to Indeck and U.S. Patent 5,616,904 to Fernadez. No agreement was reached between Applicants and Examiner Tremblay. However, Examiner Tremblay did request that Applicants disclose an example within the specification of the use of both a repeatable magnetic characteristic and a range characteristic of at least the portion of the signal indicative of the repeatable magnetic characteristic to detect attempts to reproduce either data or data and the repeatable magnetic characteristic of a magnetic stripe.

Applicants submit that an embodiment of such a system is described in relation to FIG. 4B on pages 24 and 25 of the application. In the described embodiment, the remnant noise signal between two magnetic peaks is used as the repeatable magnetic characteristic and the waveform characteristic that is used to detect attempts to forge the repeatable magnetic characteristic is based on two ratios. The first ratio is obtained by comparing the amplitudes 'a' and 'x' of the two

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peaks adjacent the repeatable magnetic characteristic and the second ratio is formed by comparing the amplitude 'b' of the repeatable magnetic characteristic at a specific location with the amplitude 'a' of a magnetic peak adjacent the magnetic characteristic. Both the repeatable magnetic characteristic and the waveform characteristic are then used in the authentication of the magnetic stripe.

Applicants submit that the above description is simply one embodiment of the claimed inventions and as is explained on page 5 line 15 - page 6 line 26 dynamic range information, whether based on amplitude symmetry or any other waveform characteristic, can enable the detection of attempts to copy an identifier or magnetic fingerprint.

Applicants thank Examiner Tremblay for making himself available to discuss the above application and encourage him to contact Applicants' counsel at the number below if they can be of any further assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By

David J. Bailey
Limited recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)
626/795-9900

DJB/mlm

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Expires: August 15, 2003



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Director of Enrollment and Discipline